

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FOLLOWING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE  
THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
IN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
AUGUST 26, 1976

Q: What was the proposal on Sidewinders?

A: Let me make clear first of all that the purpose of this meeting was to brief the committee on my recent trip and where we stand on our African policies. We also discussed some arms sales that will be submitted to Congress probably next week as well as the nuclear export bill which is now before the Congress. We had, I would say, a very constructive and positive spirit. All of this was discussed in that atmosphere. The Sidewinder formula is the issue.

Q: Was there any discussion of Korea, and do you have any explanation of the new apparently moderate attitude of North Korea?

A: I briefed the committee on where we stand in our negotiations with Korea. I think the North Koreans understand that the murder of two Americans cannot be accepted by the United States and that, therefore, we should be certain to develop procedures that give us assurances to prevent this.

Q: What sort of assurances?

A: This is the subject of negotiations.

Q: Is the crisis over in Korea?

A: No, not until the issues have been finally resolved.

Q: How do you account for their new attitude, aside from this realization? Was there any help given us by the Chinese or the Soviet Union?

A: Not that we are aware of. I think they are aware of our determination.

Q: Mr. Secretary, given the role you played in Vietnam, would you have any observation on Jimmy Carter's proposal on a blanket pardon on Vietnam draft evaders?

A: This is a domestic matter and I confine myself to foreign policy.

Q: Could you be more specific on the Sidewinder question? Have you told the committee how many you propose (inaudible)?

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A: I have given the committee the background of the number that we have in mind in the exchange of September. We are going to meet tomorrow, probably tomorrow, with a number of the Senators most concerned to see if we can work out a solution that meets the concerns of both the Executive and the Legislative branch.

Q: Mr. Secretary, we are approaching the anniversary of the Sinai Agreement. Are you satisfied with the way everything has gone, and what steps do you see for the future?

A: No agreement of such complexity is going to have every last provision work to the full satisfaction of everybody. But the agreement has, on the whole, been well observed. I think it has led to a considerable easing of tensions and it has set in motion a process which, if finished, would lead to further significant progress towards peace in the Middle East. It would seem --

Q: Mr. Secretary, when you said before the Korean crisis was not (inaudible) --

A: We can't predict this. There is another negotiating session. There's another session of the Armistice Commission tomorrow and we will there explore, one, the nature of assurances and, secondly, the precise significance of the Korean proposal which was placed on Wednesday.

Q: Will you have by tomorrow (inaudible) --

A: Yes. We will give a specific reaction tomorrow.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: We will continue to insist on assurances for the safety of our personnel and we will indicate means by which that proposal could be implemented, which we believe could be.

Q: In other words, these are our assurances (inaudible) --

A: There are some other aspects which we will take up tomorrow.

Q: Where will the meeting with the Senators be about the Sidewinders?

A: It hasn't been settled yet. It will take place tomorrow afternoon.

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Q: Is it far apart from the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch?

A: We have avoided, in this meeting, getting into haggling about numbers. I explained the background of our position and one or two of the Senators indicated the reasoning that leads them to their views, and we'll all think about each other's statements overnight. I think there's a determination on both sides to settle this in a manner that meets everybody's concerns.

Q: Between 500 and 1000?

A: I don't want to go into it.

Q: Mr. Secretary, what was discussed in regards to southern Africa? You said you briefed the committee on Africa?

A: I briefed the committee on the negotiations going on with respect to southern Africa and what I foresaw might happen in the next few weeks.

Q: What do you foresee happening in the next few weeks over there?

A: It depends on the reports we get from Assistant Secretary Schauffele and Under Secretary Rogers in the next few days. But I've always said that if there is sufficient basis for hope, I would be prepared to meet with Prime Minister Vorster again to continue the process of negotiation.

Q: In Africa, in South Africa?

A: Probably not in South Africa.

Q: Did you discuss any arms sales to Iran and to any other country in the Middle East?

A: We have an understanding with the Congress that there will be no arms sales with respect to Egypt. I put before the committee those items that we will have to submit next week because of the Congressional calendar-- those we consider most likely to be controversial--and explained our reasoning behind them.

Q: Can you tell us now?

A: We will make this clear next week at the conclusion (inaudible) --

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Q: Do you expect any other Middle East peace initiatives before the elections?

A: That depends on circumstances. I couldn't really comment at this moment. I think you want to turn this into a press conference. Mr. Chairman, would you like to say something?

SEN. SPARKMAN: I want to say that we really worked in the committee today. This morning we had a briefing on the Aegean situation. We kept Secretary Kissinger here all afternoon. He's been most helpful in giving us a view of what the situation is in different parts of the world. We're very grateful to him for this.

SEN. CASE: I second what the chairman said. The Secretary has given a very complete (inaudible) --

Q: Thank you.